



BOLAND ROLBAL / BOWLS

Bowls - a sport for all

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COMMUNICATION WITH ALL BOLAND CLUBS JANUARY 2024

Wishes for the new year.

It seems late to be wishing you and your loved ones the best for the new year when we are already halfway into January. But our heartfelt wishes, nevertheless. May you enjoy your bowling and fellowship time together with your bowling friends.

Safeguarding

You have received a separate communication from us regarding safeguarding. It is important all clubs adopt, without change, the safeguarding policy and procedure set by BSA.

Boland has appointed a district standing committee with Rika Mitchell as the convenor. We have sent a separate notice about the members of the district safeguarding standing committee. You too, need to appoint a safeguarding officer and a new club safeguarding standing committee.

For more information, please contact Rika or consult the BSA website- downloads.

Impact of excessive heat conditions

We are again experiencing very hot conditions when we play. We urge you to manage your own club situation and impose 5 minutes heat breaks or delay certain matches or any other measures until conditions are safe for playing bowls. You have the responsibility at club level to manage this. Determine the heat, consider local conditions and use common sense.

Do not put your club members at unacceptable risk!

2024 year book

We regret that there were numerous errors in the printed version of the 2024 events calendar or "yearbook". We supplied the trusted printer with a verified, electronic version of the events calendar and club contact details etc. We used our trusted printer of many years but have been bitterly disappointed with their workmanship this year. The printer has apologised and undertaken to provide us with free reprints. These will be circulated shortly.

We encourage all club members to access the corrected electronic version of the yearbook which has been placed on the Boland Bowls web site.

Available date for club fund raisers

We often receive complaints that clubs do not have enough time in the events calendar to hold club events for fund raising purposes. It is important that clubs accept the order of preference that has been established over the years. BSA is quite clear that districts may not hold a district event on a

date selected by BSA for its events calendar. In the same way Boland has the first say in setting dates for its competitions.

We have calculated that apart from BSA and Boland events, there are about 36 Saturdays and almost as many weekends, available for club fund raising events. Certain weekends are logically not suitable for club open days etc, but there are still enough opportunities for clubs within a region, to arrange their events and draw the necessary support.

Government funding assistance for bowling events

At the last AGM, we mentioned that there was a threat of reduced financial support from the provincial government. We have now received confirmation that the provincial budget for the promotion of bowls this year has been cut by 25% and that further cuts are likely to be made in future years.

This means that the regions who are the main the direct beneficiaries of the grants, will have to find alternative sources of income and/or support from Boland Bowls. We do not want to have to cancel or reduce the financial support of youth programmes and tournaments, where most of the funds are spent. In fact, we want to increase the opportunities for younger players to compete and grow and become top performers in our sport.

We are considering the implications of this matter in the preparation of our budget for next year. This will require additional funding by clubs by way of an additional increase in membership fees.

Preparations for the interdistrict competitions

We commenced early this year with the preparations for the next interdistrict competitions. We started by inviting a number of candidates based on past form and included many candidates nominated by clubs. This has proven very beneficial and has given clubs to promote their players with high performance potential but performing well in Boland competitions remains essential.

The list of candidates was reduced, and 2 further assessments were held, and, in the end, we selected 64 players to represent Boland. We capped 8 players who will represent Boland for the first time.

The preparations have gone very well thus far, and much time was spent on the difficult aspect of overcoming the mental obstacle we all encounter when playing under pressure. A special thanks to Rika, the team managers assisted by our coaches for bringing our teams to this stage of readiness.

This was tested recently when we had the first of two one-day matches against the Western Province interdistrict teams. We did exceptionally well with the overall score for all the interdistrict teams tied after the first practise round. Even an experienced WP players praised us for our motivation and skill. We have a return match shortly, and we will continue this level of play.

This year, our vets will travel to Pretoria, and the open team to Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) for the annual interdistrict competitions. The B team will play in Eden (George).

Selection

Selection remains a difficult task and we are again looking at refining the selection procedure and the effectiveness and application of the selection policy.

New Boland shirts

You may have noticed from the photos on Facebook, that Boland has a new official shirt. We thought the time was right for us to have a new, refreshing look as many other districts have done.

We asked the interdistrict players if they liked the new design and it was a virtual, unanimous decision to adopt the new look, while still maintaining our official colours. We were extremely fortunate that Rika was able to find a sponsor for 100 new shirts. Thank you, Rika.

Planning for next year

We have started planning for the various activities for next year and a lot of focus is being placed on the activities of the standing committees and funding thereof.

We are also looking at increasing the opportunities for growth and development of the younger players and those with high potential to perform at the highest level. This matches what BSA are doing and where they are spending their funds.

Opportunities to compete for younger players and the members with high potential.

We held a very successful Kuipers (Boland) vs Loeries (Eden) competition where many of our younger and promising members made a great contribution. For the second time on a row, Boland won the overall trophy. We are investigating holding two annual competitions for this group of players and include teams from Western Cape.

We are very excited about the opportunities we have, but off course it will require funding. You will be able to express your support for these initiatives when we present them at the next AGM.

Annual club membership fee

We have considered the financial burden on clubs who have failed to grow for whatever reason. Our overall membership figure has increased again compared to December 2022 but not all clubs have been able to achieve their growth targets. We are in the process of formulating a programme for assisting these clubs in a number of different ways so that they too may show positive membership growth.

Clubs are encouraged to ensure that as soon as the annual budget has been approved, to make plans to raise the required funding to meet the charge that will come in December 2024.

Enjoy the good fellowship of bowling.

Regards

Tom Tromp
Boland bowls

